

## **Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 17 of page 18:

-- The term "label" as used within the claims appended hereto is to be understood and interpreted in its broadest sense. Thus, the term is not limited to labels having any particular kind of indicia or associated in any particular way to an article. Rather, the term encompasses any kind of information carrier. Accordingly, the term "label" includes without limitation: a carrier containing visual information such as text, bar code, and/or a hologram; a carrier containing magnetic information; and a carrier containing electromagnetic information such as an active or passive radio frequency identification (RFID) tag containing fixed information or programmable information. Similarly, the label can be associated with an article or packaging using any one of a wide variety of methods including without limitation adhesive, sewing, a mechanical fastener, being formed integral with the article, and being placed within the article such as being disposed between layers of a cardboard panel or other layers of packaging.--